

REMARKS

Amendments

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended the independent claims to recite that the semantic concept represents “is-a” relationship between entities in the database. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Rejections

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-88

Claims 1-15, 18-35, 58-75 and 78-88 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 5,510,981 to Berger et al. (“Berger”) in view of U.S. Patent 5,642,519 to Martin (“Martin”). Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Berger and Martin does not teach each and every element of the invention as claimed in claims 1-15, 18-35, 58-75 and 78-88.

Berger discloses a language translation system that estimates the lexical probability of a source word as the conditional probability of the source word given the target word connected to the source word in an alignment, and given the context of the target word connected to the source word.

Martin discloses a unified grammar compiler for a speech interpreter. The speech interpreter includes a unified grammar compiler, a speech recognizer and a natural language processor.

Applicant's claims 1-15, 18-35, 58-75 and 78-88 recite linguist feature-value pairs and associated semantic concepts where each semantic concept represents an “is-a” relationship between entities. As neither Berger nor Martin teach or suggest semantic concepts that represent “is-a” relationships between entities as claimed, the combination cannot render obvious Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1-15, 18-35, 58-75 and 78-88. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Berger and Martin.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 16-17, 36-37, 56- 57 and 76-77 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant believes all the pending claims are allowable and therefore has not amended the objected-to claims at this time.

SUMMARY

Claims 16-17, 36-37, 56- 57 and 76-77 are allowable although objected to. Claims 1-15, 18-35, 58-75 and 78-88 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Sue Holloway at (408) 720-8300 x309.

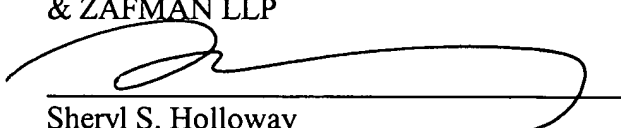
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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